

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

APRIL 28, 2020

Board members present: Commissioner Brett Wachsmith; Commissioner Laura Osiadacz (via phone); and Commissioner Cory Wright (via phone).

Others: Taylor Crouch, Deputy Clerk of the Board I; Steve Panattoni, Jail Superintendent (via Webex); Dr. Kevin Martin, Chief Medical Officer at Kittitas Valley Hospital (KVH) (via Webex); Rich Elliot, Deputy Fire Chief (via Webex); Michelle Cawley, RN (via Webex); and Dede Utley, Nursing Director of Emergency Services at KVH (via Webex); and approximately 43 members of the public (via Webex).

SPECIAL MEETING MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TAX PRESENTATION COMMISSIONERS

At 1:00 p.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting to receive a presentation regarding a Mental Health/Behavioral Health Tax proposal.

Dr. Kevin Martin, Chief Medical Officer at KVH reviewed various information regarding the need for an increase in Sales & Use Tax to utilize for additional resources relating to Mental Health within Kittitas County. He explained the benefits that would be seen in the community if the tax was approved.

Michelle Cawley, RN reviewed the program priorities and an overview of the goals. Ms. Cawley presented the Communication plan to the Board and the outreach that has been done to this point.

Steve Panattoni, Jail Superintendent reviewed goal number 1 to expand onsite mental health services to inmates at Kittitas County Corrections Center. Mr. Panattoni reviewed goal number 2 to establish transitional care coordination services for patients discharged from the emergency room or crisis intervention and inmates that successfully connect persons to continued services which would prevent readmission or re-incarceration.

Dede Utley, Nursing Director of Emergency Services at KVH reviewed goal number 3 to expand availability and accessibility of emergency chemical dependency and mental health crisis services.

Michelle Cawley reviewed goal number 4 to expand screening of children and youth for unmet mental and behavioral health needs.

Increase access to mental health providers and types of treatment while coordinating support services.

Rich Elliott, Deputy Fire Chief wrapped up the presentation, restating the Community need for this Mental and Behavioral Health tax.

Commissioner Wright had no further questions and thanked the Committee for their work on a well-done presentation.

Commissioner Osiadacz had no further questions and thanked the Committee for their work on the presentation. She stated she would like to see work continue to move forward. Commissioner Osiadacz stated that she was willing to meet with anyone on an individual basis to continue talks on this subject.

David Douglas, Professor at Central Washington University stated that this tax would not just benefit people on an individual scale but would be beneficial to many families and the community as a whole.

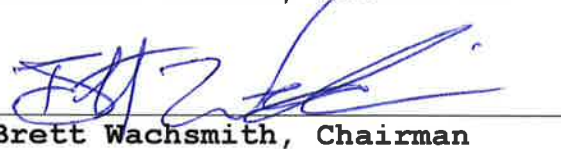
Commissioner Wachsmith stated he was personally invested in this project and is very moved to see it continue forward. Commissioner Wachsmith will work with Dr. Mark Larson, Health Officer, Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board, and legal staff to get some options to hold a public hearing on this during COVID-19. Once the Board has more information of how to proceed, the Committee will be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD I


Taylor Crouch

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Brett Wachsmith, Chairman